

The Return of SHERLOCK HOLMES

By A. CONAN DOYLE

Author of "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes," "The Hound of the Baskervilles," "The Sign of the Four," "A Study in Scarlet," Etc.



ILLUSTRATED BY F. D. STEELE

The Adventure of Black Peter

No. 6 of the Series

(Continued from yesterday.)

"He was summoned once for a savage assault upon the old vicar, who had called upon him to remonstrate with him upon his conduct. In short, Mr. Holmes, you would go far before you found a more dangerous man than Peter Carey, and I have heard that he bore the same character, which he commanded his ship. He was known in the trade as Black Peter, and the name was given him not only on account of his swarthy features and the color of his huge beard, but for the humors which were the terror of all around him. I need not say that he was loathed and avoided by every one of his neighbors and that I have not heard one single word of sorrow about his terrible end.

"You must have read in the account of the incident about the man's cabin. Mr. Holmes, but perhaps your friend here has not heard of it. He had built a wooden out-house—always called it the 'cabin'—a few hundred yards from his house, and it was here that he slept every night. It was a little single roomed hut 16 by 10. He kept the key in his pocket, made his own bed, cleaned it himself and allowed no other foot to cross the threshold. There are small windows on each side, which were covered by curtains and never opened. One of these windows was turned toward the highroad, and when the light burned in it at night the folk used to point it out to each other and wonder what Black Peter was doing in there. That's the window, Mr. Holmes, which gave us one of the few bits of positive evidence that came out of the inquest.

"You remember that a stonemason named Slater, walking from Forest Row about 1 o'clock in the morning two days before the murder, stopped as he passed the grounds and looked at the square of light still shining among the trees. He swears that the shadow of a man's head turned sideways was clearly visible on the blind and that this shadow was certainly not that of Peter Carey, whom he knew well. It was that of a bearded man, but the beard was short and bristled forward in a way very different from that of the captain. So he says, but he had been two hours in the public house, and it is some distance from the road to the window, and the crime was done upon the Wednesday.

"On the Tuesday Peter Carey was in one of his blackest moods, flushed with drink and as savage as a dangerous wild beast. He roamed about the house, and the women ran for it when they heard him coming. Late in the evening he went down to his own hut. About 2 o'clock the following morning his daughter, who slept with her window open, heard a most fearful yell from that direction, but it was no unusual thing for him to bawl and shout when he was in drink, so no notice was taken. On rising at 7 one of the maids noticed that the door of the hut was open, but so great was the terror which the man caused that it was midday before any one would venture down to see what had become of him. Peeping into the open door, they saw a sight which sent them flying with white faces into the village. Within an hour I was on the spot and had taken over the case.

"Well, I have fairly steady nerves, as you know, Mr. Holmes, but I give you my word that I got a shake when I put my head into that little house. It was dripping like a harmonium with the flies and bluebottles, and the floor and walls were like a slaughter house. He had called it a cabin, and a cabin it was, sure enough, for you would have thought that you were in a ship. There was a bunk at one end, a sea chest, maps and charts, a picture of the Sea Unicorn, a line of logbooks on a shelf, all exactly as one would expect to find it in a captain's room. And there, in the middle of it, was the man himself—his face twisted like a tortoise in torment, and his great bearded head stuck upward in his agony. Right through his broad breast a steel harpoon had been driven, and it had sunk deep into the wood of the wall behind him. He was pinned like a beetle on a card. Of course he was quite dead and had been so from the instant that he had uttered that last yell of agony.

"I know your methods, sir, and I applied them. Before I permitted anything to be moved I examined most carefully the ground outside and also the floor of the room. There were no footmarks.

"Meaning that you saw none?"

"I assure you, sir, that there were none."

"My good Hopkins, I have investigated many crimes, but I have never yet seen one which was committed by a flying creature. As long as the criminal remains upon two legs so long must there be some indentation, some

abrasion, some trifling displacement which can be detected by the scientific searcher. It is incredible that this blood bespattered room contained no trace which could have aided us. I understand, however, from the inquest that there were some objects which you failed to overlook?"

The young inspector winced at my companion's ironical comments.

"I was a fool not to call you in at the time, Mr. Holmes. However, that's past praying for now. Yes, there were several objects in the room which called for special attention. One was the harpoon with which the deed was committed. It had been snatched down from a rack on the wall. Two others remained there, and there was a vacant place for the third. On the stock was engraved 'Ss. Sea Unicorn, Dundee.' This seemed to establish that the crime had been done in a moment of fury and that the murderer had seized the first weapon which came in his way. The fact that the crime was committed at 2 in the morning, and yet Peter Carey was fully dressed, suggested that he had an appointment with the murderer, which is borne out by the fact that a bottle of rum and two dirty glasses stood upon the table."

"Yes," said Holmes, "I think that both inferences are permissible. Was there any other spirit than rum in the room?"

"Yes, there was a tinsful containing brandy and whisky on the sea chest. It is of no importance to us, however, since the decanters were full, and it had therefore not been used."

"For all that, its presence has some significance," said Holmes. "However, let us hear some more about the objects which do seem to you to bear upon the case."

"There was this tobacco pouch upon the table."

"What part of the table?"

"It lay in the middle. It was of coarse sea-skin—the straight haired skin, with a leather thong to bind it. Inside were 'P. C.' on the flap. There was half an ounce of strong ship's tobacco in it."

"Excellent! What more?"

Stanley Hopkins drew from his pocket a drab covered notebook. The outside was rough and worn, the leaves discolored. On the first page were written the initials "J. H. N." and the date "1883." Holmes laid it on the table and examined it in his minute way, while Hopkins and I gazed over each shoulder. On the second page were the printed letters "C. P. R." and then

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WORMS

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came several sheets of numbers. Another heading was "Argentine," another "Costa Rica," and another "San Paulo," each with pages of signs and figures after it.

"What do you make of these?" asked Holmes.

"They appear to be lists of Stock Exchange securities. I thought that 'J. H. N.' were the initials of a broker and that 'C. P. R.' may have been his client."

"Try Canadian Pacific railway," said Holmes.

Stanley Hopkins swore between his teeth and struck his thigh with his clenched hand.

"What a fool I have been!" he cried. "Of course it is as you say. Then 'J. H. N.' are the only initials we have to solve. I have already examined the old Stock Exchange lists, and I can find no one in 1883, either in the house or among the outside brokers, whose initials correspond with these. Yet I feel that the clue is the most important one that I hold. You will admit, Mr. Holmes, that there is a possibility that these initials are those of the secret person who was present—in other words, of the murderer. I would also urge that the introduction into the case of a document relating to large masses of valuable securities gives us for the first time some indication of a motive for the crime."

Sherlock Holmes' face showed that he was thoroughly taken aback by this new development.

"I must admit both your points," said he. "I confess that this notebook, which did not appear at the inquest, modifies any views which I may have formed. I had come to a theory of the crime in which I can find no place for this. Have you endeavored to trace any of the securities here mentioned?"

"Inquiries are now being made at the offices, but I fear that the complete register of the stockholders of these South American concerns is in South America and that some weeks must elapse before we can trace the shares."

Holmes had been examining the cover of the notebook with his magnifying lens.

"Surely there is some discoloration here," said he.

"Yes, sir; it is a blood stain. I told you that I picked the book off the floor."

"Was the blood stain above or below?"

"On the side next the boards."

"Which proves, of course, that the book was dropped after the crime was committed."

"Exactly, Mr. Holmes. I appreciated that point, and I conjectured that it was dropped by the murderer in his hurried flight. It lay near the door."

"I suppose that none of these securities have been found among the property of the dead man?"

"No, sir."

(To be continued.)

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WILL ORGANIZE AT LOUISVILLE NEXT WEEK.

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Retail coal dealers of Kentucky and Tennessee will meet in Louisville July 24-25, for the purpose of organizing a retail coal dealers' association similar to associations of coal dealers in other states.

The object of the organization will be identical with the objects of similar organizations among men pursuing other lines of business, and will be mainly to promote harmony and good fellowship and to adjust grievances.

There are many hundreds of coal dealers in Kentucky and Tennessee who are eligible.

Among the first matters to require the attention of members will be the election of officers and the preparation of a constitution which will be modeled upon the constitution of similar organizations in the north.

Perhaps the most important matter of all will be an effort to stop direct dealings between consumer and the mine. This problem has been wrestled with and settled in other states, and moving spirits in the organization believe that the matter can be adjusted in Kentucky and Tennessee. Promoters disclaim that there is any intention of raising the price of coal, or in setting prices.

Baseball Players and Foot Racers!

Louis J. Krug, ex-champion long distance foot racer of Germany and Holland, writes, Oct. 27th, 1901: "During my training of eight weeks' foot races at Salt Lake City, in April last, I used Ballard's Snow Liniment to my greatest satisfaction. Therefore, I highly recommend Snow Liniment to all who are troubled with sprains, bruises or rheumatism." 25c, 50c, \$1 bottle.

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SAM HOODENPYLE

Buys An Interest in a Cripple Creek Theater.

From the following it will be seen that Sam Hoodenpyle has quit the stage and entered the theater business at Cripple Creek, Col., with very flattering prospects of financial success. Sam Hoodenpyle, whose stage name was Hood, made quite a success as a comedian in the West's Minstrels:

"S. L. Atkinson, of the Palm theater, in Cripple Creek, and Sam Hood, late principal comedian of the West's Minstrels, have purchased the Grand theater from Mr. O. L. Booth, and will take charge of it tomorrow, July 3.

"Mr. Hood will look after the management of the house, which is a sufficient guarantee that the people of Victor will have the best talent obtainable, as Mr. Hood is an experienced showman and knows just what the people want in the way of amusement. The house will be run in conjunction with the Palm in Cripple Creek, both houses changing people every Friday and Monday."

Hoodenpyle is well known in Paducah. He came here as bugler in one of the militia companies to attend the encampment in 1894, and liked Paducah so well he remained. His first show experience was with the Buckskin Bill wild west, which was formerly owned by Messrs. A. S. and Fletcher Terrell, of Paducah.

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On Sunday, July 23rd, the Illinois Central railroad will run a cheap excursion to Louisville, leaving Paducah at 9:15 a. m., returning, leaves Louisville at 4:00 p. m., Tuesday, July 25th. Fare for the round trip—\$2.00. No baggage will be checked on these tickets, and they will only be good going and returning on special train.

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Theatrical Notes

Thomas Dixon, Jr., has completed the dramatization based on his two novels, "The Clansman" and "The Leopard's Spots." The play, which will bear the title of the first mentioned book, will have its first presentation in Norfolk, Va., on Thursday, September 21. After a tour of the principal cities of the south, "The Clansman" will be taken to New York City for a run that is expected to last during the remainder of the season. Indefinite time at two Broadway playhouses has already been offered to Manager Geo. H. Brennan.

B. E. Forrester will present Florence Bindley next season in a new musical comedy entitled "The Belle of the West," book and lyrics by Harry B. Smith and music by Karl L. Hoschua. The season will open in Cincinnati late in August and is expected that the play will be presented in this city before the holidays. Mr. Forrester is holding time with one of the principal New York theaters for a run early in the spring of next year.

Indigestion. With its companions, heartburn, flatulence, torpidity of the liver, constipation, palpitation of the heart, poor blood, headache and other nervous symptoms, sallow skin, foul tongue, offensive breath and a legion of other ailments, is at once the most widespread and destructive malady among the American people. The Herbine treatment will cure all these troubles. 50c bottle.

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